

## Forensic Science | Unit 1 Case Study – St. Valentine’s Day Massacre

Using the information provided for the case and information gathered from the internet, fill in the required information in the space provided below.

**Introduction to the case:** There have been many highly publicized crimes throughout history. While many have been solved, many others have not. In this assignment, you will take on the role of a forensic scientist and investigate one of the most infamous crimes in modern American history, the St. Valentine’s Day massacre.

**Background:** Prohibition, the constitutional ban on alcohol, in the early 20th century led to a dramatic increase in organized crime or gangs. While many individuals made large amounts of money from the illegal manufacturing and distribution of alcohol, few were as well-known as Al “Scarface” Capone. Capone created a criminal empire in Chicago during the 1920s based mostly, but not exclusively, on alcohol. However, while possibly the best-known gangster in Chicago, Capone was not the only criminal looking to make a fortune from crime. The 1920s were marked by many territorial disputes in Chicago as rival gangs waged war on each other. The event that cemented Capone as the leading gangster in Chicago happened on Valentine’s Day 1929 and became known as the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre.

For a brief overview of the event, watch this [History Channel video](#). ([Transcript of the video](#))

1. Case Name: (1 point)  
The Saint Valentine’s Day massacre
2. Date crime occurred: (1 point)  
February 14, 1929 10:30 A.M.
3. Persons of interest named in the investigation and relationship to victim(s): (2 point)  
Fred Burke, John Scalice, Albert Anselmi, Jack Mc Gurn, Frank Rio. All associated with al capone, who is suspected of being behind the massacre.
4. Summary of crime sequence: (Detailed summary of what actually happened.) (2 points)  
At 10:30 A.M. on February 14, 1929, four members of Al Capone’s gang shot and killed seven members of the north side gang in a garage at 2122 North Clark Street. Two of the shooters were dressed as police officers, and the other two were dressed in suits and ties. The ones dressed as police lead the other two out of the building at gun point after the massacre. The massacre was an attempt to kill George Moran, leader of the north side gang. One of Capone’s

lookouts mistook one of Moran's men for Moran himself, which is why the massacre occurred. The seven men were shot with Thompson submachine guns and shotguns. Each had multiple bullet wounds.

5. In lesson 1.1 you learned about how field scientists are responsible for collecting evidence at the scene of a crime. What type of evidence was collected at the scene? (4 points) **Forensic ballistic evidence was used to identify the murder weapons**
6. In section 1.3 you learned about the Federal agencies that make up the Department of Justice. What (if any) federal agencies involved in the investigation: (FBI, ATF, etc.) (4 point)  
**In 1935, the FBI arrested Byron Bolton, who told them he took part in the massacre. The FBI had no jurisdiction in a state murder case, so they stayed silent. No action was taken by the FBI**
7. In lesson 1.1 you learned about the three scientific branches of forensic science (Field, Lab, and Medical). What branches were involved in this case and in what ways? (4 points)  
**Field science was used to collect the murder weapons and lab science was used to determine that they were used in the massacre.**
8. Outcome of the case and/or current status: (This includes court proceedings and decisions, verdicts, sentences, etc.) (4 points)  
**The case is unsolved.**
9. Case significance: (Examples include: How has this case affected the field of forensic science? Has the case advanced the field? Did this case introduce a new form of technology? Did this case have any significance on the general public?) (4 points)  
**Forensic ballistic evidence was new at the time of the massacre. It was used to identify the murder weapons in the massacre.**
10. In lesson 1.3, you learned about and practiced your skills in deductive reasoning. Identify a place in this case where the forensic scientists may have had to use deductive reasoning. (4 points)

**They found two shotguns and two Thompson machine guns together. Those were the same weapons used in the massacre. The chances of that are low which is why they suspected those were the same weapons. They used forensic evidence to determine that they were.**